



(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**

Harris et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2014/0241174 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 28, 2014**

(54) **GENERATING SHORT TERM BASE STATION UTILIZATION ESTIMATES FOR WIRELESS NETWORKS**

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC *H04W 24/02* (2013.01)
USPC *370/252*

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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Monitoring within a network a history of bits throughput to a base station over each of a plurality of time intervals, monitoring within the network a physical resource block utilization level over each of the plurality of time intervals, determining a ratio of the history of bits to the utilization level for each of the plurality of time intervals, determining an updated history of bits for each of a plurality of upcoming time intervals, estimating an updated utilization level in response to the updated history of bits and the ratio, generating messaging to at least one additional network element conveying the estimated updated physical resource block utilization level, and adjusting at least one of a prefiling process or a prefetching process in response to the updated utilization level.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/774,123**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 22, 2013**

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04W 24/02 (2006.01)

